(b) Necessary measures such as construction of groynes, retaining walls, coastal shelter belt afforestation and mangrove plantation etc. have been taken up by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Flood problems in Bihar

† 949. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interlinking of Koshi and Gandak rivers is the only practical solution and measure for permanent solution of flood problem in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of positive steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has not done any study, which indicates that permanent solution of flood problem of Bihar is in interlinking of Koshi and Gandak. The NWDA proposal for interbasin water transfer has main objective of increasing irrigation. However, there is incidental benefit of mitigation of flood due to construction of storages. NWDA has proposed Koshi-Mechi, Koshi-Ghagra and Gandak-Ganga links which can help in mitigating flood problems in the State of Bihar. The National Common Minimum Programme of UPA Government provides for a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with southern rivers to be done in a fully consultative manner and also exploring the possibility of linking sub basins of rivers in States like Bihar.

Funds to NE States/Bihar for repair of dams.

† 950. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to increase in the allocation of funds

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to the N6rth Eastern States including Bihar for the schemes related to flood, land erosion and-dam repair etc. for 2005-06;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government of India has taken up a scheme for critical anti erosion works in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley in the North Eastern States including Sikkim and West Bengal (North Bengal) amounting to Rs. 150 crore (90% grant and 10% loan) in the State Sector during Tenth Plan in which Rs. 70 crore was earmarked for 2005-06 which has been increased to Rs. 80.00 crore. Besides this, a Central Sector Scheme titled "New Scheme for Protection of Majuli Island from Flood and Erosion" being executed by Brahmaputra Board for which provision of Rs. 15.00 crore was made during 2004-05 which has been increased to Rs.40.00 during 2005-06. In addition to, NE States, for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Critical anti-Erosion Works in Ganga basin States" being funded in 75% Central & 25% State share pattern, the Central share for Bihar has been increased from Rs. 40.00 crore to Rs. 51.56 crore for the Schemes to be taken up during 2004—07.

(c) Does not arise.

Sharing of river water between AP and Orissa

† 951. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that in spite of an agreement reached between the States of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa in respect of sharing of water of the river Vasundhara, the State Government of Andhra

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.